

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element;

a memory for storing an image obtained by said

5 image pickup element;

a signal processing circuit adapted to effect
predetermined signal processing on an image read out of
a first area of said memory; and

a memory control circuit adapted to, in a mode of
10 continuously picking up still images, carry out in
parallel a writing operation of writing an image
obtained by said image pickup element, into the first
area of said memory and a readout operation of reading
an image already stored in the first area of said
15 memory to effect said predetermined signal processing
by the signal processing circuit.

2. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim
1, wherein said signal processing circuit carries out
20 white balance processing and compression processing of
an image read out of the first area of said memory.

3. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim
2, wherein said memory control circuit further carries
25 out a writing operation of writing a compressed image
in a second area of said memory in parallel to said
writing operation and readout operation.

4. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim
1, wherein said memory control circuit further carries
out a readout operation of reading an image stored in a
second area of said memory in parallel to said writing
5 operation and readout operation, to record the image in
a removable recording medium.

10 5. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim
1, wherein said signal processing circuit and said
memory control circuit are included on a single
integrated circuit.